

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/721,362

Examiner

Daniel Kim

Applicant(s)

ASARI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 8/7/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/26/03
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____


STEPHEN C. ELMORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Comment

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on November 26, 2003, which the examiner indicated as considered, failed to positively indicate the status of the foreign patent literature. Therefore, an updated copy of this IDS is being provided to reflect its correct status. The updated IDS shows that these references have been considered.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In independent claim 1 directed towards a storage device for the control of nonvolatile memory, the following features taken in combination with the remaining limitations in the independent claims are not found in and/or are not obvious in view of the prior art of record, giving the language "said first sub memory block of said first memory block includes a management area, which is used for storing management information" the scope of meaning as disclosed in the specification and drawings at paragraph [0077-0078]and [0096] and in Figs. 6(A), 6(B), and 7.

Claim 1, *"said first sub memory block of said first memory block includes a management area, which is used for storing management information and includes an area for storing linking information between said first sub memory block of said first*

memory block and a corresponding sub memory block of at least one other memory block, wherein said control circuit performs control to read said linking information from said first sub memory block of said first memory block in accordance with said address information, and thereafter to program said first sub memory block of said first memory block in accordance with said address information and to said corresponding sub memory block based on linking information stored in said first sub memory block".

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Contact Information

4. Any inquiries concerning this action or earlier actions from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Kim, reachable at 571-272-2742, on Mon-Fri from 10:00am-6:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sanjiv Shah, is also reachable at 571-272-4098.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information from published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. All questions

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regarding access to the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC), reachable at 866-217-9197.

DK

10-27-06

SC Elmore
STEPHEN C. ELMORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER